required by paragraph 5 of Government Resolution No. 8265, dated 21st October 1896, Revenue Department:—

No.	Division.	Number of Cattle.
1	East Khándesh	5,017
2	West Khándesh... ...	8,566
3	Násik	7,636
4	Ahmednagar	2,332
5	Poona	...
6	Sátára	...
7	Sholápur	...
	Total ...	23,551

73. To protect the forests from the inroads of cattle, fencing, with barbed wire, with the crown branches of bábul trees armed with sharp thorns, with Euphorbia neriifolia, is resorted to. Towards the close of the year a consignment of 15 linear miles of barbed wire fencing has been received on indent from the Secretary of State for India for each division; and besides there were in stock material for fencing 10 linear miles obtained from England during 1895-96; and in addition to the above some barbed wire for fencing was bought in the Bombay market which was attached to wooden posts from the forests:—

No.	Division.	Wire.	Staples.
		Cwts.	Lbs.
1	West Khándesh ...	100	392
2	Násik	142	580
3	Ahmednagar... ...	....	112
4	Sholápur	4	56
	Total ...	246	1,140

74. The following table exhibits the progress made in fencing and the cost incurred during the year:—

No.	Division.	Length of								Total cost.
		Wire fencing.		Euphorbia neriifolia fencing.		Prickly-pear fencing.		Thorn fencing.		
		Miles.	Yds.	Miles.	Yds.	Miles.	Yds.	Miles.	Yds.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh	22	1,320	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,076
2	West Khándesh	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,274
3	Násik	16	158	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,478
4	Ahmednagar	7	600	..	...	...	...	...	...	2,529
5	Poona	14	1,176	2	962	...	...	14	508	5,696
6	Sátára	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,555
7	Sholápur	9	...	...	...	2	1,540	...	...	3,776
	Total ...	104	1,494	2	962	2	1,540	14	508	26,384

75. Thorn fences were made round the stools of the departmentally felled anjan (Hardwickia binata) trees in the Dhulia and Pimpalner ranges of the West Khándesh Division to protect the very delicate re-shoots of this species from stray cattle and deer. In Ahmednagar Division bábul coupes exploited during the year were fenced round with bábul thorns; and 6,425 aloe bulbs were put along forest boundaries by Forest Guards without any cost being incurred on their account.

(*c*).—Improvement of Forest Growth.

(*1*).—*Natural Reproduction.*

76. Owing to the peculiarly unfavourable character of the monsoon rainfall with heavy deluges at the commencement followed by a lengthened break,

and subsequent great drought, conditions were not favourable to the germination of self-sown seeds in the forests, nor to the general seeding of trees.

77. In East Khándesh coppice shoots in exploited coupes have made a fair start. The anjan (Hardwickia binata) seeded very sparsely during the year in this district. The unusual phenomenon was observed of a Nim (Melia azaderachta) tree seeding in the month of October.

78. Seedling reproduction of teak was generally fair throughout the better classes of forests of the West Khándesh Division and would ordinarily be excellent but for the effect of forest fires. Reproduction by stool shoots from the felled teak and anjan is uniformly good.

79. In the north of Málegaon in the Násik Division anjan was found to have seeded well, and the ground beneath some trees was covered with young seedlings as may be seen under beech trees in most years in Europe. But owing to the stripping of the leaves of the anjan for fodder seeds which had appeared on the trees in many directions had no chance to ripen. The tarwad, Cassia auriculata, seeded abundantly.

80. The rainfall in Ahmednagar Division, being 12·31 inches against 25·25 of the previous year, was not sufficient for the normal natural growth of plant life; but notwithstanding such unfavourable circumstances seedlings from self-sown seed were seen in many of the forests.

81. In the Poona Division owing to the failure of the latter rains a large proportion of the seedlings which had germinated from seeds naturally shed early in the season were unable to withstand the prolonged drought. Again in the drier portions of the district seeds which would have sprouted in ordinary years failed to do so entirely this year on account of the want of moisture.

82. In the Sátára Division the heavy torrential rains at the commencement of the season, and the subsequent lengthened drought, not only retarded the growth of seedlings, but to a great extent prevented the successful germination of seeds, which, where they were not washed out of the ground and carried away into the streams, rotted in the ground; while the unavoidable admission of large numbers of starving cattle into the closed reserves owing to the famine caused injury and destruction to many tender young seedlings which were either trodden down or browsed down.

83. Natural reproduction is never very prominent in the Sholápur Division, except in specially fertile localities; and this year even these, except where they are subject to the influence of river floods, have profitted little.

(2).—*Artificial Reproduction.*

84. Considerable attention was given as usual to artificial measures for growing trees. The ordinary methods such as ploughing and sowing in furrows sowing in pits, in seed-beds, dibbling under bushes and broad-casting have been followed both in the exploited coupes of the year and also in other selected localities, and the following table represents the work done during the year in the several divisions of the Central Circle :—

No.	Division.	Ploughing.		Sowing in pits.	Sowing in seed-beds and patches.	Dibbling under bushes, &c.	Broad-casting by Forest Guards.	Drill sowing.	Cost.
		Full.	Furrows.						
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh	323	...	310	.....	607	2,509	...	360
2	West Khándesh	...	...	142	.....	.....	...	...	1,691
3	Násik	35	...	3,589	.....	.....	...	...	1,584
4	Ahmednagar	167	...	61,100 No.	.. ...	6,145 148,050 No.	7,480	978	1,346
5	Poona	416	...	3,312	.....	.....	818	...	4,501
6	Sátára	...	134	4,4300 No.	156,296 No.	.....	14,684	...	2,778
7	Sholápur	67	22	.....	.....	462	247	...	1,702
	Total ...	1,008	156	*7,353 Acres 105,400 Pits.	156,296 No.	7,214 Acres 148,050 No.	25,738	978	13,962

* Of the 7,353 acres 2,144 acres represent the work done by Forest guards.